

myQuestion@beakman.com

BY JOK CHURCH

WE CAN

BEAKMAN JAX

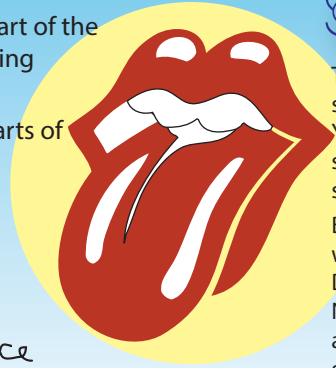
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Dear Jax,
 How do we
 whisper? Say
 hello to Beakman
 for me.

Olivia Santariero
 Freehold, New Jersey

Beakman or Jax
 1130 Walnut Street
 Kansas City, MO 64106
 Questions, name & address

Dear Olivia,
 Thank you for the lovely letter. Your voice is part of the first musical instrument humans had. It's a string instrument. The strings are your vocal cords. When we whisper, we're using all the other parts of our voice – just not the strings. Like other things with music, whispers have a name in the Italian language: sotto voce (SO-to VO-che).



Jax Place
 Jax Place



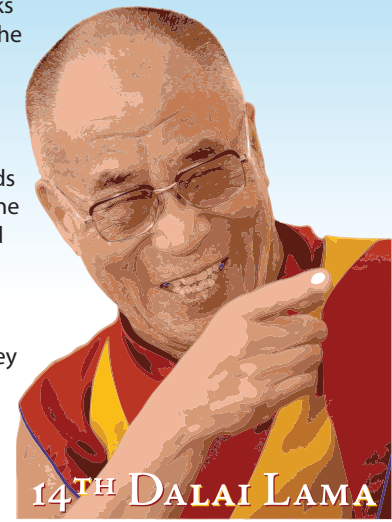
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Sing With Yourself

The third part of the human musical instrument is speaking with the top of your esophagus flapping. Your esophagus is the tube from your throat to your stomach. Humans don't use that part much for speaking. Do a low growl to feel how that works.

Buddhist monks working with the Dalai Lama in Northern India and Tibet can sing with both their vocal cords and throat at the same time, and they can sing 2 different notes together.

That means they can sing harmony with themselves.



14TH DALAI LAMA

EXPERIMENT #1

WHAT YOU NEED: Just your sweet self.

WHAT TO DO: Hold your hand lightly on your throat as in our drawing. Sing out loud do ri mi fa sol la ti do. (That's called Sol-Fa singing). Now whisper the same notes. Do it several times and compare what your hand feels when you sing normally and when you sing sotto voce.

WHAT TO NOTICE: Notice how the different sounds are formed by your lips, tongue and teeth working together with those vibrating strings, your vocal cords. Remove any one of them and your voice changes.

SO WHAT: When we whisper, all we're doing is

changing the flow of air with our lips, teeth and tongues, but we are not adding the usual vibrations of our vocal cords – you know, the strings in the stringed instrument that is humanity's first musical instrument.